

Cavemen in the Indiana High School Athletic Association state wrestling championship. The championship was a repeat challenge between two-time defending state champions Mater Dei and the Cavemen, who had suffered defeat the year before. It took all their strength and motivation to turn the tables, but at the end of this year's tournament it was the Cavemen who were celebrating victory.

It was the perfect finish to a season full of intense physical training and exhausting practices. On its way to the state title, Mishawaka—ranked third overall—completed their season with a record of 31–1 and knocked off both the first and second-ranked teams. While they have appeared in the state finals for nine consecutive seasons, this is the first championship for Mishawaka since 1991.

Mater Dei had an early lead in the contest, but junior Tim Forte rallied to win his match 1–0. This gave the Cavemen a score of 9–7—a lead which they were able to maintain throughout the rest of the competition. Seniors Dave Balentine and Randy Morin and sophomore Paul Beck were all victorious in their matches, bringing the score to 22–10. But it was a win by junior and three-time individual state champion Josh Harper that finalized Mishawaka's victory.

These exceptional members of the Mishawaka team were joined by Danny Abu-Shehab, DJ Ballenger, Brandon Barcus, Jon Bennett, Christian Bergin, Dustin Boyd, Andrew Brogdon, Gary Brooks, Andrew Childress, Darius Cooley, David Delarosa, Anthony Eddy, Marty Friedman, Adam Guerra, Matt Guerra, Neal Kostro, Christian Lentz, Anthony Lewis, Darius Marshall, Hunter Marvin, Brandon Merisch, Aaron Merisch, Richard Morin, Tyler Nally, Robert Norris, Caleb Norville, Trenton Reinoehl, Tyler Reinoehl, Steven Sandefer, Nick Schrader, Joey Smith, Tylor Smith, Brandon Straub, Quinci Sullivan, Mitch Sutherland, Travis Thomas, Justin Traver, Eric Uitdenhoven, Austin Vegh, Alex White and Taylor Wisler. These dedicated young men should be commended for their accomplishments.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the support of Mishawaka High School's administration and staff. Special recognition should be given to head coach Darrick Snyder, assistant coaches Fabian Chavez and Mike Lehman and Athletic Director Robert Shriner for the continued support and guidance they give to the team. Volunteers Brad Addison, Pat Day, Mike Faulkner, Scott Gann, Nick Nicodemus, Mike Strycker, Brandon Trtan, and Junior Varsity Coach Brian Woodworth gave freely of their time and energy to make this championship possible. The team was not alone in this accomplishment, as family, friends, fans, members of the Mishawaka community and Mishawaka High School principal Dr. George Marzotto have all tirelessly cheered the team on to victory throughout the season.

The Mishawaka Cavemen wrestling team has achieved a memorable ending to an extraordinary season. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, Mishawaka High School and the greater Mishawaka community on this season's accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board, and all federal employees of our community for their individual and collective dedication as public servants, focused on the public good.

The community of federal employees in Cleveland, Ohio, is comprised of more than 25,000 individuals who contribute their talent, trade and expertise daily within an array of roles, including park rangers, administrators, accountants, clerical employees, attorneys, engineers, military personnel, mail carriers, scientists, nurses and physicians.

The professional contributions extended daily by federal employees serve as a foundation of support, safety and security throughout our community. Every day, the environment is monitored; the mail is delivered; veterans receive medical care; our national park is preserved; immigrants are guided to citizenship; citizens are provided with benefits and programs; and the universe is studied and explored by the astronomers.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the members of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board and the thousands of federal employees who live and work within our Cleveland community. Their dedication to their work continues to preserve, protect and strengthen our entire community.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Progressive Caucus Budget Substitute.

This week, many of my constituents are visiting Washington, DC. They are here asking for more funding for important Federal programs.

I keep explaining to them, that I will do my best; we all will do our best. We will fight for them; we will fight with them.

But the problem is the war in Iraq. Every penny we spend on this war is another penny that will cost our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren. Every cent we spend on this war in an emergency supplemental is off-budget. But every dollar we invest in health care, unemployment insurance, housing, in child welfare is subject to devastating cuts.

This administration believes that we have an endless pot of money for war, but no money for hard-working Americans.

Across the country people are struggling. They are struggling to keep up with their bills. Struggling to pay their mortgages, pay for college, pay for food, pay for gas. They come here and ask us to invest in their needs. They ask us to provide funding not for the war but for their communities.

Mr. Chairman, this budget amendment does just that. We provide nearly \$132 billion more than the President to assist struggling Americans. This proposal responds to our constituents. It says we found a way to fund what is important to you.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAS ATTACK OF THE KURDS OF HALABJA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember the 20th anniversary of a terrible crime committed against the Kurdish people, the gassing of the inhabitants of the city of Halabja on March 16, 1988. This attack on men, women, and children was a crime against humanity. On that day, Iraqi planes dropped chemical munitions, including mustard gas and nerve gas; the planes concentrated their attack on the city as well as the roads leading out of the town. More than 5,000 people were killed and another 10,000 were injured. Twenty years later, the survivors of this attack are still suffering from the effects of that horrendous onslaught.

As a staffer with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the time, I had the opportunity to travel to the region after this attack, in September 1988, and observed first hand the effects of that terrible campaign against the Kurds. With my colleague, Peter Galbraith, I interviewed Kurdish survivors of other chemical attacks that followed. We had the sad but important task of documenting chemical attacks on 49 Kurdish villages. These attacks were part of a year-long brutal campaign that resulted in the deaths and disappearances of approximately 180,000 Iraqi Kurds.

Because of these brutal attacks against the Kurds, the Senate passed stiff economic sanctions against the Saddam Hussein regime at the time, but the Reagan Administration defeated this effort and failed to penalize this regime with any meaningful measures. That failure sent a terrible signal to Saddam Hussein, and he may have concluded that he could subsequently attack Kuwait with impunity. After the Persian Gulf war of 1991, the United States imposed a no-fly zone over the Kurdish region of Iraq, which helped the inhabitants of that area to begin to restore their shattered lives.

Today, the Iraqi Kurdistan region is one of the most stable and peaceful regions of Iraq, and its brave people are trying to concentrate on political and economic development. As we try to assist these people we should also be mindful of what they have lived through and the loved ones they have lost. We must never